

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 059140
ORIGIN EA-12

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EFIS, SENV, JA

SUBJECT: PORPOISE KILL

REF: (A) STATE 50930 (B) TOKYO 3440

1. CERTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON LATE FEBRUARY IKI ISLAND PORPOISE KILL WOULD BE HELPFUL TO DEPARTMENT IN ITS EFFORT TO RESPOND TO SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES AND TRICKLE OF PROTEST MAIL RECEIVED IN PAST FEW DAYS. FISHATT, WHEN INQUIRING AT FISHERIES AGENCY, SHOULD ALSO USE OCCASION TO CONVEY IN LOW KEY DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN THAT THIS EMOTIONAL ISSUE COULD GET OUT OF HAND IF GOJ STICKS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 059140

AMBIVALENT PUBLIC POSITION IMPLIED REF B.

2. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:

(A) CAN IT BE CONFIRMED THAT "ORPOISES" KILLED WERE BOTTLE-NOSED DOLPHINS, AND NOT SOME LESS COMMON CETACEAN?

(B) IS FACT OF DOLPHIN DEPREDAATION OF YELLOWTAIL AND SQUID STOCKS IN WATERS OFF KYUSHU SCIENTIFICALLY ESTABLISHED (I. E., WHAT HARD EVIDENCE IS THERE THAT POOR CATCH IS ATTRIBUTABLE MAINLY TO COMPETITION OF/INTERFERENCE BY DOLPHINS?)

(C) WHY DO FISHERMEN AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES BELIEVE ATTACK ON DOLPHINS OF SORT RECENTLY STAGED MIGHT RELIEVE OR HELP RELIEVE PRESSURE ON YELLOWTAIL AND SQUID FISHERIES?

(D) WHY IS IT NECESSARY THAT NAGASAKI PREFECTURE PAY BOUNTY FOR ELIMINATION OF DOLPHINS? (PAYMENT OF BOUNTY BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES STANDS OUT HERE AS LEAST UNDERSTANDABLE ASPECT OF INCIDENT.)

3. SHAPE OF EMERGENT PROTEST PERHAPS IS INDICATED BY REMARKS READ INTO CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF MARCH 2 BY SENATOR PELL, WHO INTER ALIA CALLED INCIDENT "THE GREATEST DOLPHIN MASSACRE IN HISTORY," "WANTON SLAUGHTER," "ENSELESS," "UNCONSCIONABLE," AND AN "ATROCITY." PELL NOTED THAT IN RESPONSE TO "GROWING PUBLIC OUTRAGE OVER THE TAKING OF DOLPHINS BY TUNA FISHERMEN," THE MARINE MAMMALS ACT WAS PASSED AND HAS ALLEVIATED THE PROBLEM DOMESTICALLY. HE THOUGHT IT UNFORTUNATE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION HAD NOT YET UNDERTAKEN A COOPERATIVE EFFORT TO PROTECT DOLPHINS.

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PAGE 03 STATE 059140

4. FISHATT SHOULD ALSO EXPRESS HOPE THAT GOJ WOULD REPORT TO INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION ON IKI INCIDENT AND ON ANY OTHER INCIDENTS OF CAPTURE AND/OR KILLING OF SMALL CETACEANS. RESOLUTION PASSED BY IWC AT ITS JUNE 1977 MEETING REQUIRED ALL MEMBER STATES TO REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL AND INCIDENTAL CAPTURE OF SMALL CETACEANS. VANCE

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